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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

A LABOR MARKET INFORMATION PUBLICATION OF THE PROGRAM PLANNING, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS STAFF
Prepared by the Division of Labor Market Information, Research and Analysis

Data for September 1983 November 7, 1983

UNEMPLOYMENT IS DOWN OVER THE MONTH

The District

After rising for four consecutive months, the unemployment rate in the District declined from 11.4 percent in August 1983 to 11.1 percent in September 1983. In addition to the decline in the unemployment rate over the month the levels of employment and unemployment were down by 12,100 and 2,700 respectively. These over the month declines reflect, to a large measure, the impact of summer labor force participants leaving the labor force. Seasonally adjusted estimates suggest a slight worsening in the employment situation of District residents over the month. Between August and September 1983 the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose from 11.1 percent to 11.2 percent. This movement in the District's seasonally adjusted rate is contrary to the Nation's, which declined from 9.5 percent to 9.3 percent between August and September of this year.

Compared to year ago estimates (September 1982 to September 1983) the employment situation of District residents continues to be bleak. Since September 1983 the number of jobless District residents has risen from 33,200 to 35,900. This rise in the number of jobless District residents (2,700) represents an increase of 8.1 percent in total joblessness. The number of employed District residents, however, increased (6,600) at a much slower rate of 2.3 percent. As a result of joblessness out pacing employment growth, the jobless rate for District residents rose from 10.5 percent in September 1982 to 11.1 precent in September 1983. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate is also up over the year. Between September 1982 and September 1983 the seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose from 10.7 percent to 11.2 percent. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted jobless rate dropped from 10.2 percent in September 1982 to 9.3 precent in September 1983. In December 1982, the Nation's jobless rate peaked at 10.8 percent, while the District's seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 11.2 percent. Since that time, the District's rate dropped to 10.2 percent in June 1983, but rose to 11.2 percent again in September.

Government of the District of Columbia
Marion S. Barry Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
MATTHEW F. SHANNON
Director

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
DIVISION OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION,
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LABOR FORCE DATA BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE a/
September 1983

	September b/ 1983	August c/ 1983	August 1982	September 1982	September 1983 Net Change From August 1983	September 1983 Net Change From September 1982
WASHINGTON, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	324,400	339,300	318,700	315,100	-14,900	9,300
Total Employment	288,500	300,600	282,900	281,900	-12,100	6,600
Total Unemployment	35,900	38,600	35,800	33,200	-2,700	2,700
Unemployment Rate						
Not Seasonally Adjusted	11.1	11.4	11.2	10.5	xxx	xxx
Seasonally Adjusted	11.2	11.1	10.9	10.7	xxx	xxx
WASHINGTON, D.C. SMSA						
Civilian Labor Force	1,791,100	1,814,100	1,724,400	1,709,500	-23,000	81,600
Total Employment	1,706,600	1,716,900	1,622,200	1,613,000	-10,300	93,600
Total Unemployment	84,500	97,200	102,200	96,500	-12,700	-12,000
Unemployment Rate	4.7	5.4	5.9	5.6	xxx	xxx
SUBURBAN RING						
Civilian Labor Force	1,466,700	1,474,900	1,405,700	1,394,400	8,200	72,300
Total Employment	1,418,100	1,416,300	1,339,300	1,331,100	1,800	87,000
Total Unemployment	48,600	58,500	66,300	63,300	-9,900	-14,700
Unemployment Rate	3.3	4.0	4.7	4.5	xxx	xxx

a/ Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding
b/ Current Month Reflects Preliminary Data
c/ Previous Month Revised Data

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William and Loudoun Counties in Virginia; Montgomery, Prince Georges and Charles Counties in Maryland.

The Metropolitan Area and Suburbs

After rising between July and August 1983, the Metropolitan Area and Suburban unemployment rates were again showing downward movement between August and September 1983. The unemployment rate in the Metropolitan Area decreased from 5.4 percent in August to 4.7 percent in September, while the Suburban rate declined from 4.0 percent to 3.3 percent between August 1983 and September 1983. Unlike the District and Metropolitan Area the drop in the level and rate of unemployment in the suburbs over the month was not accompanied by a drop in employment. Between August and September of this year, employment of Suburban residents increased by 1,800 to 1,466,700. In the Metropolitan Area the number of employed individuals dropped by 10,300—largely the result of summer job seekers leaving the labor force.

Compared to year ago estimates (September 1982 to September 1983) the employment situation of Metropolitan Area residents, in particular Suburban residents, continues to improve. With continued strong gains in employment (93,600) and falling unemployment (-12,000) the Area jobless rate declined from 5.6 percent in September 1982 to 4.7 percent in September 1983. For Suburban residents the improvement in their employment situation was even more pronounced. Between September 1982 and September 1983 employment of Suburban residents rose by 87,000 while joblessness fell by 14,700. With the rise in employment and drop in joblessness, the Suburban jobless rate declined from 4.5 percent in September 1982 to 3.3 percent in September 1983.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The number of jobs in the District of Columbia declined 1.9 percent between August and September of this year, reflecting the termination of the summer jobs program in State and Local Government. The number of private sector jobs increased 2.1 percent over the month, reflecting the termination of the strike by communications workers. Consequently, the number of jobs in Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities increased 21.0 percent. The number of jobs in the Services industry rose 1.4 percent, due to seasonal increases in Educational Services (12.5 percent). Movement in other Services industry sectors was modestly negative, with two exceptions: a modest increase in Health Services and no net change over the month in Business Services. The Construction industry experienced a 1.0 percent rise in the number of jobs. Other private sector industries experienced modest declines over the month.

Movement in public sector employment (-6.7 percent) was dominated by seasonal declines in State and Local Government (-24.0 precent), as summer jobs were terminated.

Over the Year Changes in the District

There was a slight decline in the number of jobs in the District over the year (September 1982 to September 1983). The number of private sector jobs declined over the year for the ninth consecutive month, as declines were registered in every private sector industry listed. Moreover, the number of jobs in Wholesale and Retail Trade declined over the year for the eleventh consecutive month, and the number of Construction industry jobs declined for the eighth consecutive month.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA

The number of jobs in the Metropolitan Area declined 0.2 percent between August and September, reflecting the seasonal

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY AND PLACE OF WORK
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA			METROPOLITAN AREA		
	September a/ 1983	August b/ 1983	September 1982	September a/ 1983	August b/ 1983	September 1982
TOTAL	588.6	600.3	590.6	1,620.4	1,624.0	1,586.6
Total Private Sector	330.6	323.7	335.8	1,092.1	1,083.8	1,067.1
Manufacturing	13.5	13.5	13.7	64.3	63.6	61.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.7	0.7	0.9	4.9	4.8	5.1
Printing & Publishing	10.8	10.8	10.7	23.7	23.5	22.8
All Others	2.0	2.0	2.1	35.7	35.3	33.2
Construction	10.4	10.3	10.4	74.9	74.9	68.2
Transportation, Communication Public Utilities	25.4	21.0	25.9	76.4	68.5	74.0
Interstate Railroads	3.5	3.5	3.4	4.5	4.5	4.4
Other Transportation	4.2	4.3	4.8	31.4	31.0	29.7
Communication & Public Utilities	d/17.7	c/ 13.2	17.7	d/40.5	c/33.0	39.9
Trade	59.1	59.3	60.2	308.3	307.7	301.9
Wholesale	10.0	10.1	10.2	60.6	60.7	57.5
Retail	49.1	49.2	50.0	247.7	247.0	244.4
General Merchandise	5.8	5.8	5.8	34.4	33.8	35.9
Food	4.2	4.1	4.0	31.6	31.6	30.3
Automotive	2.2	2.1	2.1	27.4	27.4	27.1
Apparel & Accessories	4.3	4.4	4.6	17.4	17.5	17.5
Eating & Drinking	23.0	23.3	23.4	80.7	81.2	78.7
Miscellaneous	9.6	9.5	10.1	56.2	55.5	54.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	33.1	33.1	33.6	92.5	93.4	91.3
Banking	7.3	7.4	7.3	20.0	20.4	20.2
All Other	25.8	25.7	26.3	72.5	73.0	71.1
Services	189.1	186.5	192.0	475.7	475.7	470.6
Hotels & Lodging Places	9.6	9.8	10.3	23.3	23.7	23.4
Personal Services	3.7	3.9	4.0	18.0	18.3	18.0
Business Services	36.1	36.1	35.6	NA	NA	NA
Health Services	27.4	27.3	27.8	NA	NA	NA
Legal Services	c/18.8	19.0	18.7	NA	NA	NA
Educational Services	32.3	28.7	32.1	NA	NA	NA
Membership Organizations	28.9	29.1	29.3	NA	NA	NA
All Other Services & Mining	32.3	32.6	34.2	c/434.4	433.7	429.2
Government	258.0	276.6	254.8	528.3	540.2	519.5
Federal Government	210.4	214.0	207.4	347.4	355.0	343.8
State & Local Government	47.6	62.6	47.4	180.9	185.2	175.7

a/ Preliminary b/ Revised c/ Strike d/ Strick Over

Data includes all full-and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Division of Labor Market Information, Research and Analysis in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, Maryland Department of Human Resources, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

EMPLOYMENT IN GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
(Thousands of Jobs)
September

Industry Sector	1981	1982	1983	NET CHANGE FROM: 1981 to 1982	1982 to 1983	1981 to 1983
Total	605.7	590.6	588.6	-15.1	-2.0	-17.1
Private	338.1	335.8	330.6	- 2.3	-5.2	-7.5
Gov't	267.6	254.8	258.0	-12.8	+3.2	-9.6
Federal	222.3	207.4	210.4	-14.9	+3.0	-11.9
D.C.	45.3	47.4	47.6	+ 2.1	+0.2	+ 2.3

Between September 1981 and September 1983, the net decline in the total number of jobs was 17,100, including a net decline of 11,900 Federal Government jobs.

Technical Note
Measure of Statistical Error

The monthly industry estimates are based on a sample of firms in the District of Columbia and the Washington, D.C. SMSA. They are therefore, subject to sampling errors. This is to say that the monthly estimates may differ from a comprehensive employment count (ES 202 Record) if it were available on a timely, monthly basis. Because these sampling errors do occur, the industry estimates are revised annually to reflect new benchmark estimates based on comprehensive counts derived from the Unemployment Insurance (ES-202) records. Table III shows the degree to which the original monthly estimates deviated from the comprehensive employment (ES-202) level for March 1982, our most recent benchmark estimates.

TABLE III
INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES BEFORE AND AFTER REVISIONS TO MARCH 1982 BENCHMARK LEVELS (000)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

	March 1982 Benchmark Estimate	Original Estimate	Percent Change
Total	593.7	600.9	1.2
Private	334.7	335.5	.2
Manufacturing	13.4	14.2	6.0
Construction	10.8	11.4	5.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	26.0	26.0	0
Trade	59.8	63.2	5.7
Wholesale	10.5	11.6	10.5
Retail	49.3	51.6	4.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	33.0	33.5	1.5
Services	191.7	187.2	-2.4
Government	259.0	265.4	2.5
Federal	211.3	217.9	3.1
State and Local	47.7	47.5	- .4

Washington D.C. SMSA

	March 1982 Benchmark Estimate	Original Estimate	Percent Change
Total	1,576.6	1,577.2	*
Private	1,047.2	1,046.8	*
Manufacturing	58.1	58.8	1.2
Construction	65.4	67.2	2.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	72.9	72.4	-.7
Trade	297.7	312.3	4.9
Wholesale	56.8	60.7	6.9
Retail	240.9	251.6	4.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	89.6	91.4	2.0
Services	463.5	449.9	- 2.9
Government	529.4	530.4	.2
Federal	345.5	345.0	-.1
State and Local	183.9	185.4	.8
			*

*Less than one tenth of one percent

termination of the District's summer jobs program. The number of private sector jobs increased 0.8 percent. Most of this increase was due to the termination of the communications workers' strike. Consequently, the number of jobs in Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities rose 11.5 percent over the month. Movement in other private sector industries was modestly upward, except for a slight decline in Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate.

The total number of jobs in suburban jurisdictions rose 0.8 percent over the month, reflecting a 0.2 percent increase in private sector jobs and an 8.7 percent increase in the public sector. The public sector rise occurred in State and Local Government, reflecting the seasonal opening of public schools.

The Area's public sector experienced seasonal declines (-2.2 percent), primarily reflecting the final phase-out of summer youth jobs in the District's State and Local Government sector.

Over the Year Changes in the Area

Between September 1982 and September 1983, the number of jobs in the Metropolitan Area rose 2.1 percent due to increases in both the private and the public sectors. Area private sector growth reflects growth in suburban jurisdictions, up 4.1 percent. While each of the District's private sector industries registered a net decline, suburban jurisdictions experienced net increases in every industry for which data are available. Suburban growth was greatest in the Construction industry (11.6 percent); Wholesale and Retail Trade (3.1 percent); and the Services industry (2.9 percent).

The Area's public sector experienced a 1.7 percent increase over the year, primarily reflecting increases in suburban State and Local Government employment (3.9 percent).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

All elements in the State U.I. Program showed decreases from last month and from the same month last year, with one exception: the average weekly benefit payment increased slightly (+1.3 percent) from September last year. The greatest relative decline was in the number of weeks claimed—down 35 percent from September of 1982. This was followed by a 34 percent decline in the number of weeks compensated from the same period last year. Initial claims are down nearly 17 percent from last month and September last year. There has been a decline in initial claims from last year for each month since May. This decline may be attributable to more stringent provisions for eligibility enacted in March of this year. The majority of activities (weeks claimed, compensated and payments) in the State Program through September are considerably (12 percent) below the level through September of last year. Initial cliams through September are 2 percent below last year.

The Federal Program operational drift is very similar to that of the State Progam. Here there were two exceptions to the decline in elements—initial claims and the average weekly benefit amount increased by 2.4 percent and slightly less than one percent respectively from last month. Weeks claimed, compensated and the amount of benefits paid were all down more than one half from the same month last year, with the greatest drop (59 percent) in benefits paid. Claims averaged 207 per month through September of this year compared to 460 last year. The loss of federal jobs by area residents appears to have been cut by more than half this year.

D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
DIVISION OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DATA - REGULAR PROGRAMS
September 1983

	September 1983	August 1983	September 1982	% Change From August 1983	% Change From September 1982
STATE UI PROGRAM a/					
Initial Claims Taken	2,705	3,245	3,241	- 16.6	- 16.5
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	44,620	58,876	68,839	- 24.2	- 35.2
Number of Weeks Compensated	42,999	56,393	65,298	- 23.8	- 34.1
Amount of Benefits Paid	$6,145,817	$8,115,580	$9,212,368	- 24.3	- 33.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$142.93	$143.91	$141.08	- 0.7	+ 1.3
FEDERAL PROGRAM b/					
Initial Claims Taken	211	206	281	+ 2.4	- 24.9
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	3,879	4,768	8,623	- 18.6	- 55.0
Number of Weeks Compensated	3,632	4,607	8,674	- 21.2	- 58.1
Amount of Benefits Paid	$597,564	$752,008	$1,460,690	- 20.5	- 59.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$164.53	$163.23	$168.40	+ 0.8	- 2.3
EX-SERVICEMEN'S PROGRAM c/					
Initial Claims Taken	87	103	74	- 15.5	+ 17.6
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	1,083	1,189	777	- 8.9	+ 39.4
Number of Weeks Compensated	759	790	491	- 3.9	+ 54.6
Amount of Benefits Paid	$116,067	$122,818	$70,636	- 5.5	+ 64.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$152.92	$155.47	$143.86	- 1.6	+ 6.3

a/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemen (UCX).

b/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemen (UCX).

c/ No joint claims.

The Program for Ex-Servicemembers showed a more diverse operation compared to the other two. Every element in the program declined from last month, but was above the level reached in September of last year. Benefits paid and weeks compensated showed the greatest relative increases respectively. Viewed from a total perspective through September, all program elements have risen significantly. Weeks claimed and benefits paid both rose more than 100 percent. This year the returning veteran appears to have considerably more difficulty finding employment in civilian life compared to last year.

All programs combined show a decrease for all activities through September. The State Program, the largest of the three, accounts primarily for the direction and extent of the trend.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT AND DISABILITY COMPENSATION

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Washington Metropolitan Area was 297.0 in September 1983. This was less than a fraction of one-tenth of a percent over the July 1983 figure of 296.8. A year ago in September 1982, the figure was 286.5 and two years ago in September 1981, the figure was 271.8. Between September 1981 and September 1982, the CPI-U increased 5.1 percent, while increasing just 3.7 percent between September 1982 and September 1983. Over this two year period, we have seen a slowing down in price increases in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Since September 1981, the CPI-U has risen at an average annual rate of 2.0 percent per year.

Workers collecting Disability Compensation will shortly be receiving an increase of approximately 3.7 percent on their paychecks. This is due to a new Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) which went into effect on October 1, 1983. According to the Merit Personnel Act, once the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) registers a three percent increase for three consecutive months from the latest base month (September 1982) a new COLA goes into effect. During 1983, the percent increases for July, August, and September were all above three percent. A COLA of 4.0 percent went into effect in December 1982, and a COLA of 5.0 percent went into effect in December 1981.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN THE AREA, THE STATES AND SELECTED CITIES

The Metropolitan Area's preliminary unemployment rate in August 1983 (5.4 percent) was one of the lowest in the Nation compared to 244 other designated Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA). The Area was ranked number 215 out of the 244, just after Poughkeepsie, New York and before Abilene, Texas. Only two other "major" SMSA's - Boston (with a rate of 5.2 percent) and Dallas-Fort Worth (5 percent) had lower rates. The highest rate was in Laredo, Texas (24 percent).

When the District proper was ranked with the states in August, it had the 6th highest rate (11.5 percent - preliminary) following West Virginia, Michigan, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisianna.

In reality, the City's labor market has more in common with central-cities than with states. Thus, the Division of Labor Market Information, and Research now prepares a monthly analysis comparing the District with 23 other central cities. In August the preliminary average unemployment rate for the 24 cities was 11.5 percent, the same as the District. This ranked the District as the central city with the 11th most severe unemployment rate in the sample. Central city rates ranged 19.5 percent in Gary to 5.4 percent in Dallas.

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for the month of September 1983 increased $2.87 as is reflected in the preliminary estimates. Average Weekly Hours rose .5 of an hour with Average Hourly Earnings dropping 5¢ an hour.

The most significant increase took place in Food and Kindred Products. Weekly Earnings were up $55.32 as Average Weekly Hours increased 2.4 hours. Average Hourly Earnings went up 61¢ an hour. The increase was due to Overtime worked at premium pay.

The largest decrease was in Printing and Publishing. Weekly Earnings were down $4.61 an hour, with Weekly Hours increased .2 of an hour. Hourly Earnings decreased by 19¢ an hour. The overall decrease was due mainly to less overtime being worked throughout the industry. Compared to a year-ago Weekly Earnings are up $4.72 while Weekly Hours are down .1 of an hour. Average Hourly Earnings however, are up 16¢ an hour.

EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA
September, 1983

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	September 1983	August 1983	September 1982	September 1983	August 1983	September 1982	September 1983	August 1983	September 1982
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	384.47	381.60	361.53	39.8	39.3	39.0	9.66	9.71	9.27
Durable Goods	344.77	345.27	310.16	42.2	41.8	41.3	8.17	8.26	7.51
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	349.35	348.99	324.72	42.5	42.2	41.0	8.22	a/8.27	a/7.92
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	358.18	347.35	296.30	41.6	41.4	40.7	j/8.61	8.39	c/7.28 d/
Non-durable Goods	426.31	419.75	409.94	37.2	36.5	36.7	11.46	11.50	11.17
Food & Kindred Products	540.96	485.64	457.71	40.4	38.0	36.5	a/13.39	c/12.78d/	12.54
Printing & Publishing	426.82	431.43	422.10	36.7	36.5	36.8	j/11.63	a/11.82	a/11.47 d/

Total Production Workers	September '83	August '83	September '82
	34,300	33,500	29,100

a/Overtime worked b/ Pay increase c/ Less overtime
d/ Change in hourly earnings due to shift work pay differential
g/ Shorter work week j/ More business (other than seasonal)
k/ Less business (other than seasonal)

Analysis of the Labor Force was prepared by Lawrence Thurston and analysis of Industrial Employment by James Cooper with statistical support from Esther Harrell. Unemployment Compensation observations were developed by Rufus Daniels with statistical support from Gwendolyn Thompson. Data on Earnings and Hours in Manufacturing was prepared by Nancy Anderson-Grant and word processing by Sheryl Ragland and Joann Washington. Elsie Taylor is responsibile for distribution. Inquiries may be made by calling 639-1643.